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Claims searched: 1-10

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Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): B1D (DDLA, DNCB, DNCN); B1T (TDLA, TNCB, TNCN)

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Other: Online WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	EP 0995475 A1 (SMC CORP.) See all Figs.	1-4,8
X	EP 0262398 A1 (BOLL & KIRCH) See abstract and especially Figs 3-6.	1,3,4,8
X	US 3937281 A (HARNSBERGER) See abstract and especially Figs. 3-7.	1,3,4,8,10
X	JP 2000218106 (TOSHIBA) See abstracts and drawings.	1-4,8-10

- X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
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- A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.